Remarks.

Reconsideration of the application as herein amended is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner's comments and objections and the cited references have been carefully considered by the Applicant.

An amended claim 1 and new claims 12 and 13 are herewith submitted for the Examiner's approval.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 102

Claim 1 has been amended to additionally set forth the features not disclosed by Gustavsson:

"a sewing path arranged at said positioning means, said positioning means being adapted to oscillate through a 90° angle for arranging and block the leading edge of said unwound length of material at said sewing path of ...".

It is submitted that Gustavsson teaches an arrangement in which the positioning device 26 is provided so as to grip the leading edge 37 of the fabric and thereafter to rotate, with such edge gripped through 180° in a plane where it is blocked at opposite ends and thereafter transported at far-off sewing paths of sewing machines for hemming.

It ensues that neither explicit nor inherent information is or may be conveyed to the one having ordinary skills in the art, which corresponds to the new features

Since neither Resta nor any of the other cited prior documents teaches the positioning-blocking arrangement of the leading edge of the material claimed in the newly submitted claim 1, i.e. the cited prior art fails completely to teach or suggest limitations of the main claim it ensues that the feature combination of claim 1 is non-obvious over the cited prior art.

Furthermore, a modification of the basic reference of Gustavsson or the combination thereof with the other cited prior documents in order to change the operation of the positioning elements would change the principle of operation of the prior invention.

Thus the teachings of the cited references are not sufficient to render the claims pending in the application obvious (In re Ratti, 270 F.2d 810, 123 USPQ 349 (CCPA 1959)).

PAGE 717 * RCVD AT 515/2004 11:14:17 AM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-110 * DNIS:8729302 * CSID: * DURATION (mm-55):02-28

Since the other new, independent claims 12-13, pending in the application, contain or include at least

the limitations of claim 1, the facts and conclusions of novelty and non-obviousness, set forth above,

apply to such new claims too.

Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

While it is believed that the amended claims properly and clearly define the present invention,

applicant would be open to any suggestion or amendment the Examiner may have or propose

concerning different claim phraseology which, in the Examiner's opinion, more accurately defines the

present invention.

Respectfully submitted

Guido MODIANO

(Reg. No. 19,928)

Agent for the Applicant

Via Meravigli 16

20123 MILAN-ITALY

Tel. +39-02-8590-7777

Milan: May 5, 2004